

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /020 R

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DRAFTED BY EB:JMDERHAM

APPROVED BY EB:JMDERHAM

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R 110028Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 266082

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JULIUS L. KATZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT PANAMA 06876 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CANBERRA

SAN JOSE PANCANAL USSOUTHCOM DATED 8 NOV 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6876

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PN

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM: PANAMA IMPORTING AUSTRALIAN
MEAT FOR REEXPORT TO US

SAN JOSE FOR AGATT

REF: PANAMA 6682 (NOTAL)

1. INQUIRY BY EMBASSY CONCERNING REPORT IN LOCAL PRESS OF
IMPORTATION OF FIVE MILLION LBS OF CARCASS MEAT FROM AUSTRALIA
FOR DEBONING, PROCESSING, REEXPORTATION BROUGHT RESPONSE
FROM AGRICULTURE VICE MINISTER GUSTAVO GONZLEZ CONFIRMING STORY.
GONZALEZ INDICATED MEAT WOULD ARRIVE FOR PROCESSING OVER TWO-
MONTH PERIOD WITH FIRST SHIPMENT ALREADY HERE AND EXPECTED TO BE
READY FOR REEXPORT WITHIN WEEK OR SO. HE SAID MEAT WAS TO BE
SHIPPED TO US, AND THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING AND THAT OF
MEAT PACKERS THAT SHIPMENTS WOULD NOT FALL UNDER PURVIEW OF
VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE "PORTION CUT"
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MEAT.

2. WE NOTE THAT DEFINITION OF "PREPARED OR PRESERVED" MEAT IN ITEM 106.10 OF US TARIFF SCHEDULE INCLUDES MEAT SPECIALLY PROCESSED INTO FANCY CUTS, SPECIAL SHAPES, OR OTHERWISE MADE READY FOR PARTICULAR USES BY RETAIL CONSUMER, AND IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT "PREPARED OR PRESERVED" MEAT DOES NOT FALL WITHIN CATEGORY "FRESH, CHILLED, OR FROZEN" MEAT WHICH IS SUBJECT OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM. EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE SOONEST WHETHER THIS INTERPRETATION IS CORRECT, I.E. WHETHER "PORTION CUT" MEAT WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM PROGRAM. IF NOT, WOULD SHIPMENTS BE CHARGED TO AUSTRALIAN ALLOCATION AS MEAT OF AUSTRALIAN ORIGIN?

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEATS, EXPORT CONTROLS, EXPORT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE266082
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMDERHAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750391-0371
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751158/aaaabzwwk.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PANAMA 6682
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM: PANAMA IMPORTING AUSTRALIAN MEAT FOR REEXPORT TO US
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PN, AS
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006